



# *Friends of Michigan History, Inc.*

## **Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

Francis "Bus" Spaniola,  
President  
*Corunna*

David H. Brickey,  
Vice-President  
*Ewart*

Keith G. Harrison,  
Secretary  
*Holt*

Richard S. Johnson,  
Treasurer  
*East Lansing*

### **Directors**

Adriana Greci Green  
*Detroit*

Keith I. Pohl  
*Mason*

Charles Seeley  
*Lansing*

Tom Shawver  
*Lansing*

Louise W. Stilwill  
*East Lansing*

Paul M. Tarr, Jr  
*Lansing*

Tom Truscott  
*Lansing*

Bill Wellman  
*East Lansing*

Geneva Kebler Wiskemann  
*Lansing*



## **FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC**

### **Meeting Minutes Lansing, Michigan July 9, 2007**

#### **Call to Order**

President Bus Spaniola called the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History (Friends) to order at 10:07 AM.

*Board Members Present:* Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Keith Pohl, Tom Shawver, Bus Spaniola, Paul Tarr, Tom Truscott, and Geneva Wiskemann.

*Board Members Absent:* David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, Bill Wellman, and Louise Stillman.

*Board Members Excused:* Adriana Greci Green, Charles Seeley, Bill Wellman, and Louise Stillman.

*Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present:* Chris Dancisak.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

***A motion was made and seconded to amend the agenda by adding under New Business, the following two items; Membership Cards and Group Exemption Number Professional Assistance; motion passed.***

#### **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous meeting; motion passed.***

#### **Annual Reports**

##### ***A. President Report***

President Spaniola presented his annual report (see Attachment).

##### ***B. Vice President Report***

Vice President Brickey was absent and did not submit an annual report.

##### ***C. Secretary Report***

Secretary Harrison stated that his annual report is comprised of all the monthly meeting minutes that are provided to the Board and to the membership via the Board's website, and the cumulative listing of meeting motions and the Friends' membership listing that are provided to the Board on a monthly basis. .

##### ***D. Treasurer Report***

Treasurer Johnson did not prepare an annual financial statement for the Board. It was requested that such a report be prepared for subsequent annual meetings.

# FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2007

Page 2

## Monthly Treasurer Report

|         |         |           |
|---------|---------|-----------|
| BALANCE | 6-01-07 | 13,470.26 |
|---------|---------|-----------|

|         |         |                 |
|---------|---------|-----------------|
| DEPOSIT | 6-08-07 | + <u>648.30</u> |
|---------|---------|-----------------|

|       |  |             |
|-------|--|-------------|
| TOTAL |  | = 14,118.56 |
|-------|--|-------------|

### CASHED CHECKS

|       |          |              |                 |
|-------|----------|--------------|-----------------|
| #1311 | Reitsma  | 150.00       |                 |
| #1313 | Keystone | 94.34        |                 |
| #1314 | Fayette  | <u>16.60</u> |                 |
|       | =        | 260.94       | - <u>260.94</u> |

= 13,857.62

### UNCASHED CHECKS

|        |         |               |          |
|--------|---------|---------------|----------|
| #1309  | Collins | 75.00         |          |
| # 1310 | Thill   | 75.00         |          |
| #1312  | Baird   | <u>150.00</u> |          |
|        | =       | 300.00        | - 300.00 |

### ALLOCATED FUNDS

|                               |               |            |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Museum Deer Hunting Exhibit   | 4,000.00      |            |
| Document Conservation         | 1,000.00      |            |
| Civil War Reenactment Ribbons | <u>725.00</u> |            |
|                               | = 5,725.00    | - 5,725.00 |

### RESTRICTED FUNDS

|               |        |                 |
|---------------|--------|-----------------|
| Walker Tavern | 692.50 | - <u>692.50</u> |
|---------------|--------|-----------------|

|                 |           |            |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| AVAILABLE FUNDS | 6/30/2007 | = 7,140.12 |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report; motion passed.***

## Presentation of Bills

Two bills associated with the Museum's new exhibit on Deer Hunting were presented for payment approval (\$68.60 for paneling and \$13.75 for a monitoring cable).

***A motion was made and seconded to approve payment of both bills (\$68.60 for paneling and \$13.75 for a monitoring cable) from the previously approved \$4,000.00 that was allocated for the Museum's Deer Hunting Exhibit; motion passed.***

## **FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES**

**July 9, 2007**

**Page 3**

***A motion was made and seconded to approve the payment transfer of \$692.50 allocated for Walker Tavern; motion passed.***

### **Museum Report**

Chris Dancisak reported on the progress of the Museum's Deer Hunting Exhibit. He indicated that they have had good support from a local family-own sporting goods store in Clair and from people from the Purple Rose Theater. The exhibit opens August 4, 2007. An opening reception will take place on August 8, 2007.

There was a brief discussion on the status of state's and Museum's precarious financial situation.

### **Committee Reports**

A. *Map Preservation Committee* – No report.

B. *2007 Veterans Day Program Committee* – Paul Tarr reported that the committee is still trying to contact the proposed speaker for the program. He reminded that the Board that the date of Sunday, November 4, 2007 was selected for the 2007 Veterans Day Program.

C. *Board Nominating Committee* –Keith Pohl indicated that he is continuing to work on a couple of possibilities for new Board members.

D. *Membership Committee* – No report.

E. *Magazine/Military Committee* – No report.

F. *Grants Committee* – No report.

### **Old Business**

A. *License Plates*. President Spaniola briefly reported on his efforts to have the state establish a Michigan History license plate. Currently, the bill to establish the license plate is pending.

B. *Board August Meeting*. Keith Harrison indicated that the Board's August meeting will take place at Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit on August 13, 2007 at 10:00 AM. Driving directions to the Fort will be sent prior to the meeting.

C. *Civil War Battle Streamers*. Per an earlier request by the Board (March 2007), Keith Harrison presented a quote for 85 unit battle streamers (18 inch ribbons similar to the individual the 12" ribbons to be presented the reenactors) that will be presented to Civil War unit organizations participating in the Jackson, Michigan Civil War Muster. The quote was \$100.00. As with the smaller individual ribbons, the unit battle streamers would acknowledge the Friends of Michigan History.

***A motion was made and seconded to authorize up to \$100.00 for the purchase of unit Battle Streamers for the Jackson , Michigan Civil War Reenactment; motion passed.***

## FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2007

Page 4

### New Business

A. *History Teacher Award.* A brief discussion took place regarding Foundation President Deborah Muchmore's proposal that the Friends explore a partnership between the Friends and Foundation on the annual History Teacher Award. The Foundation has changed the way the award is being given out with the award now being presented to the teacher at the school. This change allows the presenting organization(s) to be out in the community and also provides an opportunity to promote the Michigan History Center and the importance of Michigan history. It was decided that since the several of the Friends will attending the upcoming meeting between the Friends, Foundation, and Michigan Historical Commission on July 26th, there will be an opportunity to discuss the issue with the Foundation then.

B. Membership Cards. Keith Harrison indicated that he has been informed that the Museum will soon need a supply of new blank business cards for use in printing Friends membership cards. The anticipated cost of the blank cards would be less than \$45.00.

***It was moved and seconded to approve the expenditure of up to \$45.00 for 1,000 blank business cards for use in printing Friends membership cards; motion passed.***

B. *IRS Group Exemption Number Application and Professional Assistance.* As a result of the Friends' desire to have affiliate organizations, it is necessary for the Friends to submit an application for a Group Exemption Number that the affiliates can use. Given the importance of the number and the level of details required by the application, there is a need for it to be put together by a professional. In a related matter, there also is a need for the agreements between the Friends and its affiliates to be prepared by a professional.

***A motion was made and seconded to secure pro bono services of an attorney to prepare the IRS Group Exemption Number Application and the draft agreements between the Friends and its affiliates; motion passed.***

President Spaniola requested Tom Shawver (and any other Board member who may know of an attorney with this level of expertise) to see if he could locate an attorney that could do the required work.

C. Annual Historical Society of Michigan Competition. The Friends received a correspondence from the Historical Society of Michigan (Society) Executive Director Larry Wagenaar requesting that the Friends consider an additional donation of \$500.00 towards the Society's annual History Day competition. It was decided that before the Board would consider giving any additional funds that there be presented to the Board of an accounting of how the Society spends the funds that it receives for the competition. President Spaniola requested Geneva Wiskemann to follow up with Mr. Wagenaar regarding the Board's concern.

C. *Ideas for Greater Participation by the Friends.* Several ideas to help promote Michigan History were discussed including sponsorship of local community appearance of World War II B-17 Bombers, oral history of World War II veterans similar to National Public Radio's StoryCorps

## **FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES**

**July 9, 2007**

**Page 5**

Door to Door program, and a program recognizing outstanding historical contribution to the Upper Peninsula.

D. *Michigan History Marker Dedications.* Tom Truscott talked about the Michigan Historical Marker dedication to two Civil War soldiers held in Marshall, Michigan on June 30th and the upcoming (July 22nd) Historical Marker Dedication in Jackson Michigan documenting the existence of the Civil War Camp Blair.

### **Election of Board of Directors Officers for 2007/2008**

President Spaniola presented the following slate of Board of Directors Officers for 2007/2008 as proposed by the Board's Nominating Committee Chair: President - Bus Spaniola, Vice President - David Brickey, Secretary – Keith Harrison, and Treasurer - Richard Johnson.

***It was moved and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for all the individuals nominated by the Nominating Committee for the designated Board offices with the exception of Vice President and to elect Tom Truscott to that position; motion passed.***

***It was moved and seconded to appoint Paul Tarr to the Friends' Executive Committee; motion passed.***

### **Designation of New Resident Agent and Address**

***It was moved and seconded to change the Friends' Corporation Resident Agent and address from Chris Dancisak and the Museum's address to Keith Harrison and 4209 Santa Clara Drive, Holt, Michigan 48842, respectively; motion passed.***

### **Adjournment**

***It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned; motion passed.***

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Respectively submitted,

*Keith G. Harrison*

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary  
Board of Directors  
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

**The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, August 13, 2007, at Historical Fort Wayne in Detroit.**

## **FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES**

**July 9, 2007**

**Page 6**

### **Attachment FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2006/2007**

The fiscal year 2006/2007 was a difficult but rewarding year for the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. Our mission to support Michigan Historical Center operations was successfully implemented because of the energetic and dedicated efforts of the Board of Directors, who are all non-paid volunteers, the cooperative efforts of many dedicated employees of the Michigan Historical Center along with the Executive Director and the board members of the Michigan Historical Center Foundation.

The Friends of Michigan History, Inc. has made many contributions of time and money during the 2006/2007 fiscal year to the Michigan Historical Center and its satellites. Some examples of which are listed as follows:

Once again, we produced one of the best Veterans Day programs in Michigan. In 2006, the Friends saluted veterans of the conflict in Kosovo. The program and reception played to a near capacity crowd as we partnered once again with the Mid Michigan Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

The Friends contributed \$2,500 to support the Summer Education Program at Fort Wilkins.

The President of the Friends participated in the opening of the new addition to the Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee, Michigan. The Friends contributed \$1,000 to the museum.

Conservation and preservation of important historic documents housed in The Archives of Michigan was supported with a \$1,905.50 contribution.

The Friends contributed \$725 for Michigan History Day awards during 2006/2007.

We supported educational experiences for museum personnel with contributions totaling \$1,340.52 for travel and conference expenses not covered by the State of Michigan.

Friends financed the cost of catering for a number of Museum programs and receptions such as Black History Month with contributions in excess of \$2,300.

The organization participated with our Fayette affiliate with membership fees of at least \$1,232.96 during 2006/2007.

The Board has allocated and will forward \$665.90 in membership fees to the Walker Tavern affiliate.

The Friends have allocated \$1,000 for conservation and preservation of documents housed in the Archives of Michigan.

A contribution of \$4,000 has been allocated to help underwrite the costs of the new hunting exhibit in the Michigan Historical Center.

An allocation of \$725 to provide materials supporting the Jackson Civil War Muster has been approved by the Board.

## **FRIENDS OF MICHIGAN HISTORY, INC MEETING MINUTES**

**July 9, 2007**

**Page 7**

The Friends have directly contributed and allocated a total of nearly \$17,500 for museum and historical operations during 2006/2007.

Our affiliates at Fayette and Walker Tavern have nearly \$11,000 collectively in their treasuries. This money will support program and facility enhancements at each location.

Major challenges for 2007-2008 include the need to increase our total membership, which now totals in excess of 500 members. In addition, we must complete the application for IRS Group Exemption Number and subsequently complete and execute written agreements with our Fayette and Walker Tavern affiliates.

Operations during 2006/2007 were complicated and sometimes difficult because of the ongoing misunderstandings and/or disagreements with some Michigan Historical Center Foundation staff as well as Michigan Historical Center staff regarding the terms of a gentleman's operating agreement.

A significant amount of energy was directed to the resolution of this problem, which unfortunately diverted attention from our normal support operations. Due to the enlightened leadership of the Michigan Historical Center Foundation as well as the patience and dedication of the Friends of Michigan History Board of Directors, a written agreement was executed May 23, 2007. The agreement is for one year subject to review and renewal at that time.

This sometimes painful procedure has brought the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. across the threshold into a new era. As our organization known as The Friends of Michigan History, Inc. is registered as a 501[c] 3 organization we must be ever cognizant of all the applicable IRS requirements. It is my hope that our association with the Michigan Historical Center Foundation and the Michigan Historical Center will allow us all to accomplish many great things in the future.

Please accept my personal thanks to all of you for your support of our organization and the preservation, education and enhancement of Michigan history.

*Francis "Bus" Spaniola*

Francis "Bus" Spaniola, President  
Board of Directors  
Friends of Michigan History, Inc